World Film History I

Ball State University
MDIA 360
Fall 2026

Dr. Geneveive Newman
Assistant Professor of Media
Ball State University
geneveive.newman@bsu.edu

Course Catalogue Description:
History of world cinema from its beginnings until World War II. Study of the continuing influence of American cinema, as well as key movements in other national cinemas before 1941, such as German Expressionism and the Soviet Montage School. Open only to approved media or telecommunications majors and minors and film/screenwriting minors.

Required Readings/Screenings:
All required readings for this course are available through the University Library. The majority of these are accessible in digital formats. While some of our screening material is available only on physical media, it is also all accessible to you through the library. For a complete list of required readings and any screening material that is available through Kanopy, please refer to our Course Reading List.

If you have any trouble accessing this list or any of our course materials, please reach out via email as soon as you notice the problem.

Assignment Structure and Grading Scheme:
The assignments for this course and corresponding point values are outlined below. Each assignment's instructions will be described in detail on Canvas, but if you would like further clarity please speak to me directly.

- Midterm Film Selection and Reflection: 10pts
- Midterm Sequence Selection and Reflection: 15pts
- Midterm Shot Chart: 15pts
- Midterm Paper: 20ts
- Final Film Selection and Reflection: 15pts
- Final Paper: 25pts

The total point value possible in this course is 100 for the submission of excellent quality work for every assignment. Other point values and corresponding letter grades are listed below. Each assignment for this course is graded using a rubric for all students, which I would be happy to discuss further throughout the term, should any rubrics require further clarification.

A: 94-100pts; A-: 90-93pts

B+: 87-89pts; B: 84-86pts; B-: 80-83pts

C+: 77-79pts; C: 74-76pts; C-: 70-73pts

D+: 67-69pts; D: 64-66pts; D-: 60-63pts

F: 0-59pts

Note: students who do not submit work or attend class may also receive FN or FS grades. For more information, see the Office of the Registrar's webpage on Grades and GPA Calculations.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy:
Ball State University expects students to attend all of their classes. For more on the University's attendance expectations, please follow this link.

Students are expected to attend all scheduled course meetings in person, and your attendance will be recorded throughout the term. That said, *you do not receive points* in this course for attendance and/or participation. In order for our classroom to be as accessible as possible to as many students as possible with varying backgrounds, experiences, and lives outside of the classroom, I find that returning the decision-making to students on how they show up is the most successful approach. Your education is for you, not your instructor, and it is important to me that each student decides to commit to being present and engaged with this course.

Keep in mind, you are still responsible for material covered in class (including material you miss due to absences, late arrival, leaving early, or distraction during lecture/screening). I am happy to work with students outside of class time during office hours occasionally to help you get caught up, but if you or I begin to see a persistent problem in this area, that may indicate that a larger conversation is necessary to connect you to resources.

Academic Integrity and Reasonably Correct Prose:
All work must be your own, or should be suitably referenced. Additionally, you must proofread and correct all grammatical errors in your written work before you hand it in. While this is not a writing course, it is important that you be able to articulate and communicate your thoughts clearly in a written format for this class. All work must be typed in standard 12 point font (such as Times New Roman or Arial) and double spaced.

AI Policy:
No Generative AI Use (No GenAI use permitted for any coursework)
All work conducted and/or submitted in this course should reflect your own ideas and demonstrate your current knowledge, abilities, and skills. Therefore, generative AI should not be used to complete any portion of the assignment(s). Doing so constitutes a violation of ***Ball State University's Student Academic Ethics Policy.***

Deadlines and Flexibility in this Course:
Sometimes our lives interfere with our coursework. This is a normal, expected thing that happens for some students every semester. If you find yourself struggling to complete readings or assignments, please come to office hours so we can discuss academic accommodation options that can help you make the most out of the semester.

If you have missed a lot of class or a lot of assignments, we can also discuss what work to prioritize making up to ensure you get the most out of the class material with minimal impact on your grade.

Hard things happen. Good students have tough semesters. The best thing we can do is work together to make it a little easier to learn.

Statements

University Syllabus Statement:
We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse.

Disability Services Statement:
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's ***Disability Services*** *office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or* ***dsd@bsu.edu****.*

Title IX Statement:
All faculty and staff are mandatory reporters. This means that if we learn about something that might be sex discrimination (e.g., sexual harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, pregnancy discrimination, LGBTQ discrimination), then we must report what we know to the Title IX Office. Usually, reports will only leave a record of concern, but sometimes, a report can be escalated into an investigation without a victim's consent. Mandatory reporters are expected to share information learned in all settings, including during class activities, assignments, office hours, and outside of class. Please be thoughtful about what you disclose to me.

For more information on the Ball State University Office of Title IX, see their website or call the Student Affairs and Title IX office at 765-285-1545. You can also find further information on your rights and our University's responsibilities through the U.S. Department of Education website.

How to Seek Help: Sex discrimination can impact your education. I recognize that you may need to seek help from me, even if you do not want to report. If you need assistance in class or help navigating available resources, you can always ask me. You do not need to tell me why you are asking for help. As a mandatory reporter I cannot guarantee you confidentiality, so please keep this in mind if you consider disclosing something to me that may require reporting (including anything covered under Title IX); it is important that the choice to report be your own. If you would like to speak confidentially about an experience, I recommend reaching out to one of the following resources:

- A Better Way Muncie Office: 765-747-9107
- Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault: 317-624-2370
- Domestic Violence Prevention Network: 317-872-1086
- RAINN: 800-656-HOPE (4673) or text HOPE to 64673
- Trans Lifeline: 877-565-8860
- Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741

On-Campus Resources

Basic Needs Hub:
You are a person before you are a student; if you are struggling to meet your body's needs, you will have a more difficult time succeeding in college. It is important to me as your instructor to know that you are aware of resources that you can access if you ever find yourself struggling with the person part of attending college. I have included the Basic Needs Hub's statement and link below, but please do not hesitate to reach out if I can help connect you with them or any other local resources that you may find helpful.

If you are having difficulty affording enough food, do not have a safe and reliable place to sleep, and/or experiencing an emergency or crisis, help is available through the **Basic Needs Hub**. The Basic Needs Hub has information, resources, and provides individualized support to students. To talk with a supportive staff member about your experience, receive one on one assistance, or learn more about resources, you can submit a **Basic Needs Assistance Form**.

Learning Center:
The Learning Center offers free Tutoring and Academic Coaching for many courses at Ball State. Students can make appointments for online (Zoom) or in-person (NQ 350) appointments. To make an appointment, visit myballstate.bsu.edu and click on "Navigate" in the Academic Tools section, or just go directly to ***bsu.navigate.eab.com****.*
Testing accommodations for students with disabilities are available for students who have

received the appropriate documentation from Disability Services. Tests may be administered in the Learning Center.

Supplemental Instruction is available in select courses. If you have an SI leader for your course, that person will provide students with information the first week of school regarding weekly study sessions. For more information about Learning Center programming, visit ***bsu.edu/learningcenter*** *or call 765-285-1006. Follow us on Instagram:* ***BallStateLC****.*

Writing Center

All writers improve with practice and feedback, so as a student in this course, you are encouraged to use the Writing Center to get additional feedback on your writing. The Writing Center can help you at any stage of the writing process, whether you're just getting started and need help brainstorming or when you're wrapping up a project and just want a second set of eyes. We work with writers from all disciplines and with all kinds of writing, including essays, reports, reflections, research projects, web content, lesson plans, slideshows, poster presentations, resumes, and other digital or print texts.

You can choose from three appointment types: getting started on a new project (Planning appointment), discussing an existing draft (Feedback appointment), or scheduling time to work, with a tutor on hand to keep you motivated (Accountability appointment). To schedule a free appointment, go to ***bsu.edu/writingcenter****. We offer online appointments any time we're open, or you can meet a tutor face-to-face in Robert Bell 295 during weekdays and Bracken Library First Floor West in the evenings. Make sure you plan ahead, because appointments book quickly!*